# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# RAILWAYS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5969
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2000
ACHIEVEMENTS MADE IN FREIGHT LOADING
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**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether Railways have achieved a record in freight loading during 1999-2000 as compared to the last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the revenue earned as a result thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the performance of freight loading?

## Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the year 1999-2000 Indian Railways carried more than 456 million tonnes of originating revenue earning freight traffic.This was over 35 million tonnes more than the loading achieved during 1998-99 registering a growth of 8.4%.

(c) Approximate revenue earned from goods traffic for the year 1999-2000 is Rs. 22024 crores.

(d) During 2000-01, the incremental freight loading is expected to materialise mainly from movement of coal, cement, material to steel plants, finished steel and POL products. In order to create transport capacity for lifting this incremental traffic, adequate number of open, covered and flat wagons and locomotives have been planned. To tackle the problem of near saturation of the main freight corridors, induction of high horse power diesel and electric locomotives has been provided for in the procurement plan. A special thrust is being given to strictly enforce block rake disciplines, augment capacities of terminals and capturing of piecemeal traffic through containerisation.

In order to retain its competitiveness vis-Ã -vis other modes, Railways refrained from any price hike despite hike in diesel prices in November, 1999. Further, although in the Budget proposals a general 5 per cent hike has been proposed, the major revenue-earning commodities, namely, coal, steel, petroleum and cement have been given relief inasmuch as freight of these commodities would increase only to extent of about 2 per cent. Moreover, the concessions given earlier to imported coal has been withdrawn with effect from 1.4.2000. Simultaneously, the higher classification of washed coal, which was putting domestic washed coal at a disadvantage vis-Ã -vis the imported variety, has also been done away with.